



Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity

MEDIA ALERT

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International Day for Biological Diversity



Biodiversity and Climate Change

Executive Secretary of the Convention on Biological Diversity invites all media to the CBD Secretariat for a briefing on the links between biodiversity and climate change leading up to the high level global climate change discussions on 24 September at the UN in New York

Montreal, 10 September 2007:

Climate change is one of the major global challenges facing humanity today. As highlighted in the recent reports released by the United Nations' Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC), the science on climate change is very clear –the warming of the climate system is unequivocal, and it is due to human activities.

Calling for concerted international action to address this issue, UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon intends to take a leadership role in supporting efforts by the international community to address the problem by bringing world leaders together and by ensuring that all parts of the UN system contribute to the solution.

Hence, the Secretary-General will convene an informal High-Level Event to Advance Negotiations on Climate Change in New York on the margins of the UN General Assembly on 24 September. The aim of the event is to promote discussion among world leaders on how to address climate change and galvanize support for advancing negotiations by launching a strong process in Bali this December that will lead to agreement on a comprehensive framework in 2009.

The Secretary-General hopes that world leaders will send a powerful political signal to the negotiations in Bali that “business as usual” will not do and that they are ready to work jointly with others towards a comprehensive multilateral framework for action on climate change for the period after 2012, when the first commitment period under the Kyoto Protocol expires.

Climate change demands an urgent response. Climate change is not just an environmental issue, but one that has serious social and economic implications as well. Because these issues require the involvement of many sectors, such as finance, energy, transport, agriculture and health, the Secretary-General has urged that climate change be firmly positioned in the broader sustainable development agenda.

Developed countries can do much more to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and encourage energy efficiency. They can also support clean development in fast-growing economies and adaptation measures in countries facing the greatest hardships from climate change.

Headquartered in Montreal, Canada, the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) –a legally binding treaty signed and ratified by 190 Parties and the European Community—is one of the most broadly subscribed international environmental treaties in the world. Opened for signature at the Earth Summit in Rio de Janeiro in 1992, Parties to the Convention have committed themselves to its three main goals: the conservation of biodiversity, sustainable use of its components and the equitable sharing of the benefits arising from the utilization of genetic resources.

In view of this, CBD Executive Secretary Ahmed Djoghlaif will be available for interviews during the week of 18-23 September, leading up to the High-Level meeting that he will attend as the Head of one of the key UN environmental conventions.

Issues linking biodiversity and climate change include the vulnerability of biodiversity-based livelihoods to the impacts of climate change, and the use of biodiversity resources for climate change mitigation and adaptation.

As we all need to be more engaged in addressing climate change and its affects on our planet, the Executive Secretary invites you to the CBD Secretariat on Thursday 20 September from 10 -12 for coffee and discussions on the above issues.

Please confirm your participation by Monday 17 September at secretariat@cbd.int or with Marie Aminata Khan, Information Officer at marie.khan@cbd.int , telephone +514 287-8701.